

February 2012

Bulova Byline

www.fairfaxcounty.gov/chairman (703) 324-2321 chairman@fairfaxcounty.gov



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I am drafting this issue of the Byline on the last day of January. Outside we are experiencing unseasonably mild weather, a dramatic contrast to the walloping our area received during the past several winters. It's safe to assume that before the season ends we'll experience some inclement weather. See inside this newsletter for some helpful information about how you can be kept up-to-date on emerging storms as well as useful numbers and links for reporting emergencies and getting help.

- As this Board begins our next four year term, we will take some time to consider priorities and direction at a two day **Strategic Planning Retreat**. On our agenda, in addition to the fiscal outlook, will be potential changes to the process and tools we use for planning and development. We will also include a discussion of community engagement - how we can sustain and build upon the culture that ensures a place at the table for our residents and corporate neighbors when important issues are being considered. Later in February our Board will be meeting jointly with the School Board in a first time ever full day Board-to-Board retreat. I'm looking forward to both of these opportunities and will be sure to report back on both events.
- At our Board Meeting on February 28th, the County Executive will be releasing his **recommended budget for Fiscal Year 2013**, which begins on July 1st of this year. At our Budget Committee meeting in November we learned that home prices appear to be stabilizing. The median price of a home in Fairfax County has increased by approximately 2.3% - not a huge rebound but an improvement over the steep decline in values we have experienced during these recession years. A bright sign is a **7% increase in the value of commercial property** in Fairfax County.
- You will be able to watch the County Executive's Budget presentation on Cable Channel 16. It will also be live streamed by going to the Fairfax County web site at <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cable/channel16/vod.htm>. It's important to remember that the budget the County Executive presents is **his recommendation and is not final**. You can comment officially at public hearings scheduled for the evenings of **April 10th, 11th, and 12th**. On **April 24th**, the Board of Supervisors will "**mark-up**" (make changes to) the Advertised Budget. **Formal adoption will take place a week later on May 1st**.
- In addition to the public hearings, there will be many opportunities during March and April for **you to weigh in on spending (and savings) priorities**. In the March Byline I will publish a list of town meetings and community forums that will be held throughout the county. Fairfax County

will also provide venues for you to comment via social media.

Thanks so much for your interest in Fairfax County and for staying informed through this Byline. I look forward to working with you during the months and years ahead!

Sincerely,



Sharon Bulova – Chairman, Fairfax County Board of Supervisors

Phase 1 Dulles Rail 64 Percent Complete

Phase 1 of the Rail to Dulles project is **now 64 percent complete** and is set to open in August 2013. The Dulles Transit Partners, the contractors building the line, and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, which manages the project, have recently resolved a number of scheduling issues and reduced the estimated delay to 15 days, most of which is attributable to weather. MWAA is also reporting that Phase 1 remains on budget.

In other Phase 1 news, WMATA's [first ridership estimates](#) show the four stations in Tysons Corner and the station at Wiehle Avenue will attract nine million new trips per year. That's nine million trips that may have otherwise been in a car in an area clogged by auto traffic.

Complete preliminary engineering estimates on Phase 2 are due out soon. When they are released, our Board will have 90 days to approve our continued commitment to this ambitious project. Rail to Dulles remains my number one transportation goal.

Opponents to this critical project continue to suggest we halt progress in order to study all possible effects. I have worked with our County

staff and our funding partners over the last year to successfully reduce the cost by over \$700 million to protect Fairfax County taxpayers and Dulles Toll Road users all while keeping the project “on track.” Stopping the progress we have fought so hard to achieve works against our Board's [stated commitment](#) to “vigorously pursue economic development and revitalization opportunities.” I will continue to work to keep costs down, protect County residents and Toll Road users, and keep Rail to Dulles moving forward.

Tysons West design



2012 Stuff the Bus – Food for Fairfax Drive

Local food pantries need our help stocking their shelves. Fairfax County Neighborhood and Community Services and the Office of Public Private Partnerships are once again partnering with MV Transportation, Inc. and local grocery stores (Giant and Shoppers) to collect donations of food to assist the most vulnerable in our community.

All donations will go directly to local nonprofit organizations that help feed needy families and individuals in the Fairfax-Falls Church communities.

For more information about Stuff the Bus or the Fastran program, call 703-222-9764, TTY 711



Please join us any time from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at one of the locations:

February 11

[Fair City Mall Shoppers](#)

9622 Main Street
Fairfax, VA 22031
Benefiting Food for Others

[Kingstowne Giant](#)

5870 Kingstowne Blvd
Alexandria, VA 22315
Benefiting Koinonia Foundation

February 18

[Fair City Mall Shoppers](#)

9622 Main Street
Fairfax, VA 22031
Benefiting Our Daily Bread

[Seven Corners Center Shoppers](#)

6360 Seven Corners Center
Falls Church, VA 22044
Benefiting Falls Church Community Service Council

VDOT Announces Planned Changes to I-66, Beltway

The Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) is addressing delays that have occurred along I-66 west at I-495 due to traffic pattern changes and the closure of the old I-495 north left exit to I-66 west. To ease congestion in this area crews will work overnight to open a third lane along I-66 west over I-495 to provide more travel capacity.

Crews will modify Exit 49, I-495 south, Outer Loop to I-66 west by reducing the current two-lane ramp to one lane. Motorists are encouraged to use caution in this area as the lane reduction will occur on the top portion of the exit ramp.

By reducing the I-495 south to I-66 west exit ramp to a single merge lane onto I-66, it creates room for the third through lane in this area.

To make these changes, starting at 9:30 p.m. on Friday night, Feb. 3 until 7 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, crews will close one lane on I-66 west and one ramp lane on I-495 north to I-66 west. Work includes installing new lane markings, ramp modifications, placing concrete barriers and adding new signage. By 7 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 4, the new lane and ramp configurations will be open to traffic.

Should inclement weather cancel this work it will be rescheduled.

The HOT Lanes project is on scheduled to be completed in late 2012.



Happy Lunar New Year!

I extend warm wishes to all for a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District 2012 Native Tree & Shrub Seedling Sale

The **Northern Virginia Soil and Water Conservation District** has begun its annual seedling sale to provide an inexpensive source of seedlings for Fairfax County residents. All seedlings are native to Northern Virginia. Two packages are available – The **Incredible Edibles Shrub and Small Tree Package** and the **Incredible Edibles Tree Package**. All the seedlings in this year's offerings provide **food for both humans and wildlife**.

The Incredible Edibles Shrub and Small Tree Package (\$15.95) includes four American Hazelnut, two Elderberry, two Serviceberry, and two Cranberrybush Viburnum. The Incredible Edibles Tree Package (\$11.95) includes two American Plum, two Persimmon, two Chokecherry, and one Allegheny Chinkapin.

Download the order form at: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/nvswcd/seedlingsale2012.pdf

Deadline for ordering is Monday, April 16.

Board Endorses Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan

Last month our board endorsed the first comprehensive disaster recovery plan in the National Capital Region. The Fairfax County **Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan (PDRP)** is the work of a federally funded project led by the **County Office of Emergency Management** and positions Fairfax County to successfully recover from a major disaster.

The PDRP will help ensure Fairfax County can not only survive a disaster, but will be able to recover from it as the great County it is today. Recovery isn't just about removing debris or repairing property. We must be ready to get back to work and patronize our local businesses to keep our economy moving. We must be ready to take our kids to school and to reclaim our social lives. **We must be ready to face the new day.**

The Plan includes partnerships with community organizations like **Faith Communities in Action and local Chambers of Commerce**. It considers post-disaster community needs holistically, and in coordination with our partners, it will assist the community in addressing the overwhelming and diverse issues that could arise once response activities have subsided.

The PDRP has been praised by federal economic and emergency management officials, and localities across the country are looking to it as **a model for their disaster recovery plans**. Our Office of Emergency Management personnel and their director, David McKernan, are to be applauded for their efforts.

To view the final Fairfax County Pre-Disaster Recovery Plan and read about the extensive process used to develop it, visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/oem/pdrp/>.

In case of inclement weather...

As many county residents will recall, we received a record amount of snow in early 2010, and we rang in 2011 with a commute-crippling Thundersnow. I wanted to take this opportunity to remind you about the services available to you in case we experience another harsh winter.

Most of the roads in Fairfax County are state roads and are plowed by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT). After the storms last year, your elected representatives at the state and local levels met with the local VDOT administrators and a more robust snow response plan is in place this year.

If you have concerns about plowing in your neighborhood, the Northern Virginia District Office of VDOT can be contacted at 800-FOR-ROAD (800-367-7623) or by email at novainfo@vdot.virginia.gov. Additionally, the Board of Supervisors works closely with VDOT to insure that our constituents are well served, so please feel free to contact my office or the offices of my colleagues and we will follow up with VDOT on your concerns.

Make sure you know how to contact your **utility providers** in the event of a service disruption. **Dominion Virginia Power (1-866-366-4357 for outages) and NOVEC (703-335-0500 or 1-888-335-0500 for outages) are the power providers in the county.** A complete list of utility providers and their contact information is available through the county's website: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/dpwes/utilities/utilitycompanies.htm>.

One of the best ways to be prepared for winter weather is to **subscribe to the county's Community Emergency Alert Network**, which delivers messages about crises, emergencies, traffic delays and weather events. Subscribers can receive CEAN messages via email, phone, pager, or other wireless device. Visit <https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/cean/> to register for this service. You can also subscribe to updates from our new Emergency Information blog at <http://fairfaxcountyemergency.wordpress.com/>.

We recognize that heavy snowfall can make it challenging for residents to access medical services. **Residents with high-risk health conditions are strongly encouraged to sign up with the County's Special Needs Registry** (<http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/specialneeds/> or (703) 324-9000). The information in the registry will be used by county agencies to improve their ability to serve participants in the event of an emergency. In the event of an emergency all residents, whether or not they are on the Special Needs Registry, should call 9-1-1.

Residents are also encouraged to prepare for winter weather by **winterizing their homes, preparing an emergency supply kit, avoiding unnecessary travel and allowing extra time for travel during inclement weather.** For tips on these topics and others related to winter weather preparedness, please visit <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/emergency/prepare/winter/>.

Civil War Events, Commemorations Happening in February

We've only got a couple Civil War events happening during these cold months:

Civil War Forum, "Mosby's Combat Operations in Fairfax County"

Feb 8, Fairfax Station Railroad Museum

Address: 11200 Fairfax Station Road, Fairfax Station, VA

Times: 7:30 p.m.

Phone: (703) 425-9225

Admission: FREE

Don Hakenson, Past President of the Stuart-Mosby Historical Society and History Commissioner for Lee District in Fairfax County, will present the Civil War Forum on "Mosby's Combat Operations in Fairfax County" on Wednesday, February 8, 2012 at 7:30 p.m. The Forum will be held at the

Click here for a complete list of events happening in and around Fairfax County

Fairfax Station Railroad Museum at 11200 Fairfax Station Road in Fairfax Station, VA. The Forum is free and open to the public. There is a "Snow/Ice" alternate date of Wednesday, February 29, 2012.

Women in War: Cornelia Peake McDonald of Winchester

Feb 25, Civil War Interpretive Center at Historic Blenheim

Address: 3610 Old Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA

Times: 2pm

Phone: (703) 591-0560

Admission: FREE

Beverly Pelcher will present a first-person impersonation of Mrs. Cornelia Peake McDonald, who lived in Winchester, Va. during the American Civil War.

Board Endorses Tysons Urban Design Guidelines

Last month our board endorsed guidelines that seek to create an aesthetically pleasing and functional **Tysons Corner**. The guidelines will serve as a reference tool for developers to create an urban center that looks, feels and operates like a true downtown. These guidelines, with recommendations spanning from **tree planters to block sizes to low impact development techniques**, will help developers create an appealing Tysons Corner

Some other recommendations in the guidelines include materials for **plantings, parks and buildings, outdoor seating for restaurants, and sustainable building elements**. The guidelines are the result of a public input process held throughout the County during the fall.

The endorsement of the guidelines shows our Board's desire to see Tysons Corner succeed not only as a home to some of our leading corporate

neighbors, but as **an attractive neighborhood and destination for Fairfax County residents**.

Download the guidelines here:
http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/tysons/design/download/draft_tysons_udg.pdf



Ask Fairfax: County Priorities 2012

Thank you to all who participated in our Ask Fairfax online chat on January 13th. I had the opportunity to respond to a variety of issues and concerns of Fairfax County residents. The subject of the chat was the County Priorities for 2012. Please follow the web link below to see the dialogue yourself! <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/AskFairfax/Archive/ArchiveDiscussion.aspx?roomid=27>

You can also learn more about our board's priorities by looking at the inauguration ceremony at: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/opa/inauguration/2012-2015/bulova-inaugural-speech.htm>.

Fairfax County Sheriff's Office Announces College Scholarship Opportunity

Criminal Justice students enrolled in a Virginia college or University are eligible to apply for a college scholarship from the Virginia Sheriff's Institute (VSI) Scholarship Program. Scholarships are available to both full- and part-time students.

As part of the application process, Fairfax County Sheriff Stan Barry must submit a letter of recommendation on behalf of the applicant. To obtain a letter of recommendation, please contact Lieutenant Steve Elbert at shf-pio@fairfaxcounty.gov or call 703-246-3251.

For more information on the VSI Scholarship Program or to download the application, go to <http://vasheriffsinstitute.org/scholarship/>

Founded in 1981, the Virginia Sheriff's Institute is a non-profit professional and educational organization. In May 2011, the VSI Scholarship Committee awarded 58 full-time scholarships at \$500 each and three part-time scholarships at \$250 each, for a total of \$29,750. The number and amount of scholarships awarded each year vary depending on the number of eligible students and the amount of money that is raised.

Sheriff Barry is a member of the VSI and participates in the scholarship fundraising efforts.

Seven Corners Transit Center Ribbon Cutting

I was proud to attend the Seven Corners Transit Center ribbon cutting ceremony on January 27th. The proposed transit center includes three bus bays, six bus shelters, a bus layover area, and a parking facility. This is an important project that upgrades the existing bus stop in the parking lot to alleviate problems due to deteriorating and inadequate facilities. It makes the shopping center **more transit oriented** and will provide a functional and attractive way to get people on buses and the nearby metro at East Falls Church.

